

LAGO EMPLOYEES
POSTPONE.ULTIMATUM
ORANJESTAD—

An IOWUA delegation met with the Minister of Finance Gilbert de Paula Monday to discuss the problem which arose in connection with the 39 percent income tax deduction imposed by the Central government on the money which the Lago employees will receive from Lago. The delegation said that Mr. de Paula showed understanding for the problem and said that study the matter and see if a solution is possible. He promised that the delegation will get a reply from his within a week.

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ARUBA'S FIRST ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

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RIOT POLICE TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE DEMONSTRATORS

ORANJESTAD—

A strike called by the SIMAR, GABA and SEPA unions went into effect midnight Sunday. The three unions representing some 3000 public servants including teachers called a work stoppage for an indefinite period following failure of their talks with the government to revoke its decision to cut the salary of civil servants by ten percent. The union submitted a list of alternatives to the government which they claim would suffice the reduction of their salary. They include: reducing the island government from six to four deputies, reduction of annual compensation for government leaders to attend island council meetings, reduction of the government leaders representation costs and travel expenses, elimination of five-twelfths of employees vacation pay, downgrading payment of overtime hours in free days, reduction of the time street lights are on, and recuperating 15.6 million of the total of 62.6 million of arreared taxes now owed the government. The government said that the alternatives were good ones but stated that it would revoke the decision only after negotiations on the alternatives with the unions. This was unacceptable to the unions. Monday night



the government mediator Mr. Eddy Maduro proposed the government postpone its decision for a month during which time the union and the government could negotiate. The unions accepted but the government rejected the idea. The strike which was somewhat mild Monday came to head Tuesday when an estimated crowd of about 500 angry union members demonstrated for a half-day in front of the government office. The demonstration followed the presentation of a signature list by the representatives of the workers

to Lt. Governor Pedro Bislip for the government to revoke the salary cut measure at 10.30 a.m. When the government informed them to first call off the strike, then they would listen to the labor representatives ideas, the demonstrating ensued. By 2.30 p.m. Police told the demonstrators they had order from the Lt. Governor to disperse the demonstration and would do that using all means at their disposal. The strikers however, remained in front of the government offices and began singing the Aruba national an-

them. Riot police was called in. They used tear gas canisters which they laid on the ground in front of them and the wind did the rest to disperse the strikers without the police having to manhandle them. By 3.30 p.m. the premises in front of the government offices was completely abandoned. According to reports Wednesday morning other unions on the island expressed their solidarity for the striking unions and indications were that the strike would escalate if there were no results in the negotiations.

SOVIET PRESIDENT DEAD AT 73

MOSCOW—President Konstantin Chernenko of the United Soviet Socialist Republic died on Sunday March 10 after a grave illness at the age of 73. Chernenko was born in Siberia on September 24, 1911. He became secretary General of the Communist Party following the death of Presi-

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